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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO RURAL BUSINESSES

Rural Texas businesses are key players in the state's economy as they create new jobs and stimulate rural economies. During 2005, USDA Rural Development provided more than \$22 million in grants and loan guarantees to ensure a strong rural economy.

"Our goal is to provide financial assistance to the individuals who live and work in rural communities across Texas," said Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director. "Encouraging financial growth in rural Texas ensures their viability for future generations."

USDA Rural Development Business Programs work in partnership with the private sector and community based organizations to provide financial assistance and business planning for rural Texas. Grants and loans are used to fund projects that create or preserve quality jobs. Financial resources are often leveraged with other public and private lenders to meet business and credit needs in rural areas. Recipients of these programs may include individuals, corporations, partnerships, cooperatives, public bodies, nonprofit corporations, Indian tribes, and private companies.

USDA Rural Development strives to ensure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, call the State Office at 254-742-9700 or visit us on the web at <a href="http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/">http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/</a>.